

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OIC-02 IGA-02 ITC-01
SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 H-01 AF-08 ARA-06
NEA-10 /129 W

-----261555 062098 /42

P R 261256Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3122
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3188
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EEC
SUBJECT: CIEC-EC HIGH LEVEL WORKING AGREES ON TIMING AND TACTICS
BUT MAKES NO PROGRESS ON SUBSTANCE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1316, (B) EC BRUSSELS 1248

1. SUMMARY: EC OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE EC HIGH LEVEL
CIEC GROUP IS RECOMMENDING THAT CIEC SHOULD RESUME TOWARDS THE
END OF APRIL AND THE CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD
IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY, AFTER THE WESTERN SUMMIT. THE
APRIL 5 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL PREPARE THE FINAL EC
CIEC POSITION. THUS, MAJOR CIEC COORDINATION WITH THE G-8 AND
G-19 WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN APRIL. THE EC
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CONTINUES TO DISAGREE ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. UK PERM DEL AND COUNCIL SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS BRIEFED US
ON THE RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 22 EC HIGH LEVEL GROUP
MEETING TO PREPARE CIEC POSITIONS. THIS GROUP IS
COMPOSED OF THE HEADS OF MEMBER STATE CIEC DELEGATIONS
AND COMMISSION OFFICIALS. IT WAS CHAIRED BY BUTLER OF

THE UK FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO PARTICIPATED IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH US, JAPAN AND CANADA. OFFICIALS HERE REPORT THAT THE GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS REFLECT THE RESULTS OF THESE CONSULTATIONS.

3. THE GROUP AGREED TO RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING TIMING, PREPARATIONS AND TACTICS WHICH THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT AND FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL TAKE UP. IT AGREED THAT CIEC SHOULD RESUME IN THE LAST 10 DAYS OF APRIL AND THE CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY, PREFERABLY DURING THE LAST 10 DAYS OF MAY AFTER THE WESTERN SUMMIT. THE GROUP WANTS TO AVOID TWO MEETINGS OF SENIOR OFFICIALS. A MEETING OF THE TEN CO-CHAIRMAN MIGHT BE THE WAY TO START, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE FOUR CONTACT GROUPS. THE CANADIAN CO-CHAIRMAN, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE LEFT A MARGIN OF MANEUVER IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS.

4. THE EC GROUP BELIEVES THE G-19 WILL NOT LIKELY MAKE SIGNIFICANT GESTURES UNTIL THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT CONSEQUENTLY WANTS TO AVOID MAKING KNOWN ANY CONCESSIONS BEFORE THE FINAL PHASE OF CIEC. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WANTS TO GIVE INDICATIONS TO THE G-19 OF THE POSSIBLE NATURE OF THE FINAL RESULTS WHICH THE G-8 HAS IN MIND.

5. AS A RESULT, THE GROUP SUGGESTS THAT THE G-8 SHOULD SEEK TO HAVE AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE FINAL RESULTS BEFORE CIEC RESUMES. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE APRIL 5 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL SHOULD PREPARE THE FINAL EC CIEC POSITION. UK PERM DEL OFFICIALS HOPE THAT THE G-8 WILL AGREE TO COORDINATE POSITIONS SHORTLY AFTER THE APRIL COUNCIL. THIS WOULD ALLOW ENOUGH TIME FOR G-8 TO HAVE INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH KEY G-19 MEMBERS BEFORE RESUMPTION OF CIEC. THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF CIEC COORDINATION WILL NECESSARILY TAKE PLACE IN APRIL.

6. EC OFFICIALS ADD THAT THE MARCH 8 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE CIEC ISSUES, BUT THE BULK OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE DEVOTED TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS. THE MARCH 8 COUNCIL WILL DECIDE WHETHER CERTAIN SPECIFIC ISSUES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE MARCH 25 EUROPEAN COUNCIL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING.

7. THE GROUP ESSENTIALLY MADE NO PROGRESS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS PROPOSED AGREEMENT ON AN

"IMMEDIATE ACTION" PROGRAM OF ONE-TIME OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) TO THE FINANCIALLY HARDEST PRESSED LDCS. THE FRENCH REJECTED THIS UNLESS MEMBER STATES WOULD ALSO AGREE TO REACH THE 0.7 PERCENT ODA PER CAPITA TARGET WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME-FRAME. THE FRENCH REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT THE US HAD INDICATED A DESIRE TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS ODA. THE EC CONSEQUENTLY SHOULD DO THE SAME. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS NOT ACCEPTED. EC OFFICIALS DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS FEASIBLE BECAUSE SEVERAL MEMBER STATES ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO INCREASE THEIR AID AT THIS TIME.

8. THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL TAKE UP THE GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON MARCH 3. THE MARCH 8 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL ALSO CONSIDER THEM, BUT THIS COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO DEVOTE MOST OF ITS TIME TO PREPARING FOR FORTHCOMING COMMON FUND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU01863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770067-1126
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977026/aaaaafao.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d97acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 EC BRUSSELS 1316, 77 EC BRUSSELS 1248
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3370452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIEC-EC HIGH LEVEL WORKING AGREES ON TIMING AND TACTICS BUT MAKES NO PROGRESS ON SUBSTANCE
TAGS: ENRG, EEC, CIEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d97acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009